
On the Trail of the Opium Poppy. A Narrative of Travel in the Chief Opium-Producing Provinces of China
by Alexander Hosie

Source: *The Journal of Race Development*, Vol. 6, No. 2 (Oct., 1915), pp. 222-223

Published by:

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/29738129>

Accessed: 01-08-2014 01:11 UTC

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Far from idealizing the Young Turk movement, Miss Durham attributes to its success in getting control of the government the Balkan Wars and the break-up of Turkey in Europe. Its policy of forcible Ottomanization expressed itself, in Scutari and the surrounding region, in compelling the inhabitants to surrender their arms without compensation, in levying unjust taxes, in instituting public flogging as a punishment, and in suppressing Albanian schools and papers. It was only after the complete alienation of the Albanian population, that the Turkish government began to make concessions, when concessions could do no good. The result to be expected in any case was discontent leading to revolt but, in addition to the ills of Turkish rule, the mountain people were stirred up by emissaries of the Montenegrin government which hoped to profit by an Albanian uprising. The first revolt, that of 1911, planned as it was by Montenegrin leaders and with every expectation that Montenegro would have a share in it, started prematurely before all the mountain men were armed and turned out badly. Montenegro withdrew her support as soon as she realized that the revolt had failed, partly because of the strong Albanian preference for complete autonomy rather than union with Montenegro. Deprived of Montenegrin support, the Albanians were compelled to make a futile peace with Turkey.

Again in 1912, the Malsors were used as a cat's paw, their uprising preceding the Balkan War. Miss Durham accuses the Montenegrins of all kinds of atrocities in their dealing with the Turks; of an attempt to exterminate the Albanians, Moslem, Catholic, and even Orthodox, that they might possess the land without the complication of a race problem; and of absolute unpreparedness to care for their own sick and wounded as well as for the Albanian refugees. She also accuses them of military inefficiency, charging that the little that was accomplished around Scutari was due to the Servian forces and not to the Montenegrin. Altogether it is a sickening story of deceit and barbarity and suffering which brings home the horror of war and the difficulty of ever settling the Balkan question.

On the Trail of the Opium Poppy. A Narrative of Travel in the Chief Opium-producing Provinces of China. By SIR ALEXANDER HOSIE, Late H. B. M. Consul-General, Tientsin, China. London: George Philip & Son. 1914. 2 vols.

The British government undertook, beginning with the year 1908, to diminish annually, for a period of three years, the total

amount of opium exported from India by one-tenth of the average amount taken annually by China during the five years from 1901 to 1905, and, if during these three years the Chinese government carried out their arrangements for diminishing the production and consumption of opium in China, the British government would continue in the same proportion this annual diminution of the export from India after the three-year period.

In order to find out whether the Chinese government was living up to its part of this agreement, Sir Alexander Hosie was sent on a tour of investigation in 1910 and 1911 through the six chief opium-producing provinces of China. The result of his investigation, embodied in a report to Parliament in 1911, was that, in the three northern provinces

in 1910 poppy cultivation had been completely eradicated in Shansi, and that there had been a reduction of 30 and 25 per cent respectively in Shensi and Kansu as compared with the year 1907. As regards the three southwestern provinces, cultivation had ceased in Szechuan in 1911, while Yünnan and Kueichou had reduced their cultivation in the same year by 75 and 70 per cent respectively.

His observations led him to the conclusion that wherever the farmers realized that the local authorities were in earnest, poppy cultivation had almost entirely ceased but, where it seemed likely that they would take no active steps, poppy fields abounded even along the main roads and close to the chief towns.

These two volumes are not a study of the opium question but merely a record of this journey of the author's, describing the physical characteristics and economic conditions of the country traversed and the incidents of the journey.

A Revelation of the Chinese Revolution. A Retrospect and Forecast. By A CHINESE COMPATRIOT. Edited by John J. Mulowney. New York: Fleming H. Revell. 1914. Pp. 142.

Revolutionary China is by no means satisfied with the man at the head of the so-called Republic, who has undone or at least checked the work of the revolutionary party. This little book is an attempt to interpret to the Western world the Chinese point of view and is a most vigorous attack upon Yuan Shi-kai. In contrast to him is placed General Hwang Hsing, to whom is given the chief credit for the inception of the revolutionary movement. Though acting through Li Yuan-hung, the nominal leader, it was